



JAMES WASHINGTON MURPH.

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Rev. James Washington Murph, D. D., now (1918) stationed at Sumter, is one of the most successful members of the A. M. E. Connection in South Carolina. Like many other successful men, he was born and reared on the farm and continued to work on the farm till called to the work of the Gospel ministry.

He was born in Calhoun county on May 3, 1867. His parents were Reuben and Silvira (Reid) Murph. His paternal grandparents were Louis and Rachel Culler. On the mother's side his grandparents were Jake Zeigler and Fannie Reid.

Young Murph attended the rural schools as a boy. He had grown to manhood and was twenty years of age when he was converted and became active in the work of the church. Soon after he felt called to preach and was licensed the next year.

He went to Claflin University for his college work. His father assisted him the first year but after that he was compelled to make his own way. Undiscouraged he spent three years at Claflin and then went to Atlanta, Ga., for his theological course at Gammon Theological Seminary.

Since making for himself a name in the religious world, Kittrell College (N. C.) has conferred on him the degree of D. D.

Dr. Murph joined the M. E. Conference at Charleston in 1888 as a supply under Bishop Mallileu having been assigned to Tatum Station in the autumn of 1887 to fill out the year in lieu of Rev. J. A. Harral whose health had failed. In 1888 Dr. Murph went into North Carolina and joined the Conference held at Charlotte and was assigned to Trinity church in Wilmington where he served one year, after which he changed his membership in the Conference to that of the A. M. E. church Conference, joining under Bishop James A. Handy, and has since been active in the work of that church.

His first appointment in the A. M. E. church was the Southport (N. C.) Circuit where he preached one year. After that he preached at Warrenton Station one year, Fayetteville Station one year, Rocky Point Circuit two and a half years, Greensboro Station one and a half years and the Wilmington Station three years. At the end of that time he was transferred to the North East Conference in S. C., and appointed to Orangeburg for one year. He then preached at Vance's Circuit three years, where he erected a church, Liberty Hill Station two years and Mt. Pisgah Station four years. Dr. Murph erected new houses of worship at Tatum and at Wilmington. His has been a fruitful ministry.

He is a forceful and effective speaker and a good pastor.

His favorite reading, next after the Bible, is science and biography.

On November 15, 1900, Dr. Murph was married to Miss Lillian B. Lanear, a daughter of Benj. Lanear, of North Carolina. She was a teacher before her marriage. They have four children: James, Benjamin, Pearl and Henry Murph.

Dr. Murph attended the General Conference at Norfolk and Philadelphia.

He belongs to the Masons, the Pythians and the Good Samaritans.

He believes the greatest single need of his people today is proper leadership.
